

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 7, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 1, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 28, 2006

SENATE BILL

No. 1451

Introduced by Senator Kehoe

February 23, 2006

An act to add Section 8588.15 to the Government Code, relating to public safety.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1451, as amended, Kehoe. Emergency preparedness, planning, and information.

Existing law provides for emergency services, as specified.

This bill would provide that the ~~State Fire Marshal~~ *Governor's Office of Emergency Services* shall convene a permanent advisory committee, composed of representatives from specified groups, to make recommendations to the State Fire Marshal, the Legislature, and appropriate state and local agencies regarding preparedness, planning, procedures, and the provision of accessible information relating to the emergency evacuation of designated groups from public and private facilities and private residences during emergency or disaster situations. The bill would require the ~~State Fire Marshal~~ *Director of the Office of Emergency Services* to develop and host training workshops, to prepare and disseminate brochures and other relevant materials, and to seek research funding to develop new technologies and information systems relating to the evacuation of the designated groups from public and private facilities and private residences during emergency and disaster situations. The bill would set forth legislative

findings and declarations regarding the need for the bill and would state that it is the intent of the Legislature that the annual Budget Act shall appropriate federal homeland security funds *and any other applicable federal funds* to the ~~State Fire Marshal~~ *Office of Emergency Services* in order to implement the act.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Recent emergencies, such as “9/11” and Hurricane Katrina,
4 have underscored the need for government to have in place
5 emergency disaster preparedness plans, procedures, and
6 accessible information.

7 (b) Specifically, these disasters have demonstrated that
8 emergency disaster preparedness plans, procedures, and
9 accessible information have not been developed to serve the
10 unique needs of those with physical, sensory, and cognitive
11 disabilities; California is among those states that lack procedures
12 to address the needs of those with disabilities, in evacuating
13 public and private facilities and private residences during an
14 emergency or disaster.

15 (c) The convening by the ~~State Fire Marshal~~ *Governor’s*
16 *Office of Emergency Services* of a permanent advisory committee
17 to provide the necessary input to the State Fire Marshal, the
18 ~~Governor’s Office of Emergency Service Services~~, other
19 appropriate state and local agencies, and the Legislature
20 regarding evacuation procedures, emergency disaster
21 preparedness plans, and the provision of accessible information
22 for the elderly, those who lack access to transportation, and those
23 with disabilities during emergency and disaster situations will
24 help solve this critical need.

25 SEC. 2. Section 8588.15 is added to the Government Code, to
26 read:

27 8588.15. (a) The *Governor’s Office of Emergency Services*,
28 *in consultation with the State Fire Marshal and other state,*
29 *federal, and local agencies*, shall convene a permanent advisory
30 committee on or before January 1, 2008, to make

1 recommendations regarding preparedness, planning, and
2 procedures relating to the emergency evacuation of the groups
3 designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b),
4 from public and private facilities and private residences during
5 emergency and disaster situations; the committee shall also make
6 recommendations regarding the providing of accessible
7 information regarding preparedness, planning, and procedures
8 relating to the emergency evacuation of the groups designated in
9 paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b) from public
10 and private facilities and private residences during emergency
11 and disaster situations. Members of the advisory committee shall
12 serve without compensation, but shall receive reimbursement for
13 actual necessary travel expenses and the state-adopted per diem.

14 (b) The advisory committee shall include representatives from
15 each of the following groups:

- 16 (1) Persons with physical disabilities.
- 17 (2) Persons who are blind or visually impaired.
- 18 (3) Persons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- 19 (4) Persons with cognitive disabilities.
- 20 (5) Persons with developmental disabilities.
- 21 (6) Persons with learning disabilities.
- 22 (7) Local government.
- 23 (8) Appropriate state agencies.
- 24 (9) Fire officials.
- 25 (10) Researchers in emergency evacuation of groups specified
26 in this subdivision from public or private facilities and private
27 residences.
- 28 (11) Building owners of public or private facilities.

29 (c) (1) On or before January 1, 2009, and every two years
30 thereafter, the committee shall provide recommendations to the
31 *Director of Emergency Services, the State Fire Marshal, the*
32 *Legislature, and appropriate state and local agencies regarding*
33 *preparedness, planning, procedures, and provision of accessible*
34 *information on the emergency evacuation of the groups*
35 *designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b)*
36 *from public and private facilities and private residences during*
37 *emergency or disaster situations.*

38 (2) The recommendations shall include, but shall not be
39 limited to, proposed legislative and regulatory actions, and
40 relevant research or technology design.

(3) The recommendations developed by the advisory committee shall be shared with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services for inclusion into the State Emergency Management System.

(d) (1) ~~The State Fire Marshal~~ *Director of Emergency Services*, in consultation with the advisory committee, shall develop and host training workshops on the following subjects as they relate in particular to the groups designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b):

(A) Emergency evacuation procedures for the effective and safe evacuation from public and private facilities and private residences.

(B) Emergency or disaster preparedness or planning.

(C) The provision of accessible information on preparedness, planning, and procedures relating to the emergency evacuation of the groups designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b) from public and private facilities and private residences during emergency and disaster situations.

(2) ~~The State Fire Marshal~~ *Director of Emergency Services* shall prepare and disseminate brochures and other relevant materials on preparedness, planning, and procedures relating to the emergency evacuation of the groups designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b) from public and private facilities and private residences during emergency and disaster situations; the materials shall be available in accessible formats, including, but not limited to, Braille, large print, audio cassette tape, and electronic file.

(e) ~~The State Fire Marshal~~ *Director of Emergency Services* shall seek research funding to develop new technologies and information systems that will assist in the evacuation of the groups designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b) from public and private facilities and private residences during emergency and disaster situations.

(f) It is the intent of the Legislature that the annual Budget Act shall appropriate federal homeland security funds ~~to the State Fire Marshal~~ *and any other applicable federal funds to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services* in order to implement this section.

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